

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Claims 1-24 were originally pending in this application. Claims 17 and 20 are amended. Claims 1-12 and 23-24 are cancelled, without prejudice. Of these claims, Claims 13, 15, 17, and 20 are independent. Hence, after entry of this amendment, Claims 13-22 are pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 13-16 are allowed. Claims 17 and 20 are indicated as allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 18-19 and 21-22 are indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant thanks the Examiner and acknowledges the allowable subject matter of Claims 13-22.

Independent Claims 17 and 20 are amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. In particular, the phrase "such as" has been replaced by the phrase "including--". Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 17 and 20, and claims 18-19 and 21-22 dependent thereon, are now in allowable form.

Art-Based Rejections

Claims 1-2 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Sadr-Salek (USPN 6,417,934). Claims 3-4 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sadr-Salek (USPN 6,417,934) in view of Marshall (USPN 6,396,597). Claims 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sadr-Salek (USPN 6,417,934) in view of Tsukamoto (USPN 5,857,073). Claims 9-12 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sadr-Salek (USPN 6,417,934). Applicant submits that these grounds for rejection are moot in view of the cancellation of claims 1-12, 23 and 24.

Appl. No. 09/680,727
Amdt. Dated September 17, 2004
Reply to Office Action of June 18, 2004

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Conclusion

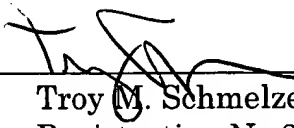
This application is now believed to be in form for allowance. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6700 to discuss any steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

Please charge any fees due in connection with this response to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: September 17, 2004

By: _____


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